



# Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot

## *Brockton, MA*

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5101)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

**EPA's** Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower States, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. Since 1995, EPA has funded more than 200 Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilots, at up to \$200,000 each, to support creative two-year explorations and demonstrations of brownfields solutions. The Pilots are intended to provide EPA, States, Tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

### BACKGROUND

EPA has selected the City of Brockton for a Brownfields Pilot. Brockton (population 92,788) is located in southeastern Massachusetts, approximately 20 miles from Boston. The percentage of Brockton families living in poverty is double the rate of surrounding areas. Shoe- and bootmaking were once Brockton's most important industries, but factory closings and the movement of middle-income families to outlying areas have left the once thriving downtown business district in decline. During the last 10 years, Brockton has lost approximately 4,200 jobs.

In 1996, the City designated an Economic Corridor running north-south through the center of Brockton along both sides of the Old Colony Railroad. The corridor contains most of the City's industrially zoned land and is Brockton's last major resource for industrial growth. Brownfields comprise about one-third of the Economic Corridor. The State has designated the area an Economic Opportunity Area, making economic development incentives available to the City. Brockton is targeting four sites within the Economic Corridor for its Pilot. Three of the sites are former shoe manufacturing facilities and a fourth site will be selected during the Pilot project.

### PILOT SNAPSHOT



*Brockton, Massachusetts*

**Date of Announcement:**  
July 1998

**Amount:** \$200,000

**Profile:** The Pilot targets four sites in the City of Brockton's Economic Corridor, an area containing most of the City's industrial land and abutting economically disadvantaged neighborhoods.

### Contacts:

City of Brockton  
(508) 580-7113

Regional Brownfields Team  
U.S. EPA - Region 1  
(617) 573-9681

Visit the EPA Region 1 Brownfields web site at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/region01/remed/brnflld/>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

## OBJECTIVES

Brockton plans to conduct the Pilot as an integral part of the City's overall economic development plan. The City plans to assess and clean up its brownfields, establish strategic reuse plans, create new job opportunities, and improve the quality of life in its downtown. The Pilot will provide a model for this process through the assessment of two sites, the creation of cleanup and reuse plans for four sites, and involvement of the community in reuse decisions. The City will provide additional funding for the public participation and cleanup planning portions of the Pilot.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Conducting site assessments;
- Developing cleanup and redevelopment plans for four sites;
- Distributing information about the sites and conducting workshops to encourage community participation in cleanup and reuse decision making; and
- Developing reuse plans for each of the four sites that identify desirable end uses, appropriate cleanup standards and methods, cleanup financing mechanisms, and other sources of public and private support.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.